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FPM-Naming Spies;360

FCasey Calls for Criminal Penalties for Those Naming Covert Agents

WASHINGTON (AP) - CIA Director William J. Casey; urging criminal penalties for the public identification of U.S. spies; said today that ''untold damage'' has been caused by the naming of American covert agents.

''Unauthorized disclosures are undermining the intelligence community's human source collection capabilities and endangering the lives of our intelligence officers in the field;'' Casey said.

He testified be[illegible]e a Senate Judiciary subcommittee; which is considering a bil[illegible] to impose jail terms of up to 10 years for someone with access to classified information who discloses the name of an agent.

Similar legislation failed to reach a Senate floor vote last year as opponents contended it was unconstitutional and could stifle legitimate news reporting of intelligence activities.

The Justice Department testified today that the current proposal; sponsored by Sen. John H. Chafee; R-R.I.; is constitutional.

Richard K. Willard; counsel on intelligence policy to Attorney General William French Smith; endorsed a controversial provision of Chafee's bill authorizing up to three years in jail for disclosure of a spy's name by someone without access to classified information.

The provision ''would pass constitutional muster under a First Amendment or due process challenge;'' Willard said. The provision would require prosecutors to show that disclosure as made ''with reason to believe'' that naming spies would harm U.S. intelligence activities.

The bill is aimed in part at a publication called Covert Action Information Bulletin; which repeatedly has published the names of alleged Amer[illegible]an agents.

''A substan[illegible]al number of these disclosures have been accurate;'' Casey said. [illegible]m hopeful that we will soon see enactment of a measure which [illegible]ill finally put an end to the pernicious and damaging unauthorized disclosures of intelligence identities.''

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THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION AND AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION TESTIFIED AGAINST THE CHAFEE PROPOSAL.

ADA DIRECTOR LEON SHULL SAID: "IT SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO MUZZLE THE PRESS AND FORBID THE PUBLICATION OF UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO MEET FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES."

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